37th Year of Publication ★ 20 Paise

FREE INDIA

Founder: E. R GOVINDAN

Vol.XXXVII | Madras, Sunday, April 11, 1976 | No. 30

RECEIVED
ON 26 APR 1976

FREE INDIA
Phone: 85304
SUBSCRIPTION RATES
6 Months Rs. 5 00
1 Year Rs. 10 00
Single Copy 20 Ps.
OUTSIDE INDIA
6 Months Rs. 20
1 Year Rs. 40
Circulation Manager
FREE INDIA WEEKLY
MOUNT ROAD,
MADRAS-600002.

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Sri Chamundeeswari Waste Paper Co.,
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Land Ceiling Laws

Enforcement Tardy

[The problems facing the State Governments in enforcing the farm land ceiling laws are discussed by the veteran journalist, Mr. K. Rangaswami in his Foreign News and Feature.]

PRESIDENT Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed in his broadcast to the nation on the eve of the Republic Day said: "Vigorous steps are needed for the enforcement of land ceiling laws and for the distribution of surplus land." He also emphasised that "the compilation of uptodate land records is essential and I hope that State Governments would give top priority to this work."

By 1972 all the States had enacted legislation fixing the land ceiling in accordance with the guidelines prepared by the Centre. Since the declaration of Emergency and the announcement of the Prime Minister's Twenty point Programme, special emphasis was again laid on the implementation of land ceiling laws. That the President found it necessary in January 1976 to call for 'vigorous steps' for the implementation of the land ceiling laws and the compilation of uptodate land records is indeed an eloquent commentary on how the programme is being implemented in the country.

According to data collected by the Ministry of Agriculture upto the middle of December 1975 the returns of land holdings have been filed by 10.82 lakhs persons in the country. Of these returns, scrutiny has been made in 2.66 lakh cases and pending cases are 8,16 lakhs. The surplus land declared so far amounted to just 5.46 lakh acres while of this only 2.54 lakh acres have been taken possession of by State Governments. And finally, what has actually been distributed is a mere 90 thousand acres! The entire operation is being reduced to a farce.

If the results so far obtained are regarded as a sample survey then the surplus land that may be available after the disposal of all the pending cases may be about twenty lakh acres. Is it really worth so much labour and expenditure to secure just twenty lakh acres?

The official survey points out that the estimate of State Governments placing the availability of surplus lands at about four million acres "was found by us as having no firm leg to stand upon". The State Governments have a lot of land and many State Governments have begun distributing this land also presumably to inflate the area made available for distribution to the landless.

At any rate it would be more useful to distribute government land to the landless according to some plan and organise small cooperative farms on a voluntary basis. With the assistance of State Governments these cooperative farms can produce enough and to spare. Perhaps if the landless labour in the villages are resettled in this manner those with large holdings may be compelled to part with some

(Contd. on next page)

Words to Remember

[Excerpts from the speeches of the Prime Minister]

In an interview to the BBC Television show, the Prime Minister said: What is needed now (in India) is that somebody must give unity and hope- unity among themselves and hope for the future. And this I think I have been able to do."

"What is more important than individual freedom is the existence of the country, unity of the country, to protect the country from outside invasion or pressure."

"The Opposition is mainly from the privileged people who fear an attack on their privilege. That attack has to be there if one to help others] And amongst a population of 600 millions, the dissent is among a few thousands. I mean there is no comparison."

"We are going to run this country as we think best. And we are running it not for personal strength or for streagth to threaten anybody, either with in the country or outside but to solve our economic and our social problems."

"I think India's future is bright I think its present is bright. One thing which people outside simply cannot understand (is) India is a different country. Illiteracy does not mean that a person is uncivilised, or unknowledgeable. There is what I call in speeches something like a sensitivity, a civilisation that has come not through the written word but through the spoken word, and this is what gives the Indian people a terrific capacity not only to bear their hardships but push ahead."

"I do think that (the only thing that can work is) if we can get what we want—a democratic system, not confined to elections, but involving the people in really decision-making processes. By people, I do not mean a handful of intellectuals who live in the cities or sit in air-conditioned rooms. I mean the vast majority of peasants and workers—actually the peasantry and the landless labour and tribals, these that form the majority. We want their voice to be heard in the planning of programmes of development for their areas. And this is how they can be—once they feel an involvement and responsibility towards their own society and their own area. This is the only thing that can work. In a country like India it can never work from somebody giving orders from above."

★ ★ ★

Conveying good wishes to the retiring Rajya Sabha members, the P.M. said people sometimes "get comfused" in their minds that freedom of a few was more important than freedom of the vast majority of the people to go ahead.

"Freedom of expression or the other freedoms are not threatened (in India). There are certain curbs. Those who say democracy is not suitable (to India) know neither democracy nor do they know India."

"The main question is democracy for whom, justice for whom and freedom of expression for whom?"

"As justice Holmes once said, freedom of expresion does not mean freedom to shout "fire" in a crowded hall, where there is not enough exit."

THUS SPAKE THE MAHATMA

True guidance comes by constant waiting upon God, by utmost humility, self-abnegation, by being ever ready to sacrifice one's self. Its practice requires fearlessness and courage of the highest order.

ASOKA SCENTED BETEL NUT POWDER

Free India

SUNDAY April 11, 1976

REFORMS WITHOUT RECORDS

Just two months to complete the process of land ceiling laws implementation (the congress party has fixed the target date as June 1976) much progress has not been made in many states.

The main hurdles mentioned were the intervention of courts, lack of finance to pay compensation and for setting up the enforcement machinery and also lack of authentic land records and statistics.

About the last hurdle, the following interesting points have been made in a journal: "In 1955, it was estimated by Professor Mahalanobis that there would be about six crore acres of surplus land for distribution. It was estimated again by experts in 1970 that there would be four crore acres of surplus land. After the national guide lines were accepted in 1971, it was estimated that about 40 lakh acres would be available for distribution to the landless."

The area declared surplus and distributed so far has no relation whatsoever to the figures mentioned in the experts' estimates.

The urgent need and "an essential preliminary" are to "up to date land records covering all aspects of rural occupation."

From page 1

Enforcement Tardy

of their land because of shortage of labour for cultivating their lands. Simultaneously, if the wages of agriculture labour are increased as suggested by Agriculture Minister Jagjivan Ram it may help to bring about a change in the thinking and attitude of farmers with large holdings.

The land ceiling laws have been operative for more than two years now and yet the implementation has been far from being satisfactory. The intervention of the courts of law can be held as the main factor in States like Gujarat, Punjab and Haryana to arrest implementation. But the data available with the Union Ministry of Agriculture do not warrant the conclusion that the poor performance in other States can be accounted for by the legal hurdles. While it is true that in a few States thousands of writ petitions have been filed involving thousands of acres about which no action can be taken, it does not explain why hundreds of thousands of acres, not affected by the writ petitions remained untouched. Many State Governments pleaded their inability to implement land laws unless they were given the protection of the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution. But the performance of these States after the inclusion of the ceiling laws in the Ninth Schedule made it clear that it was not the courts that stood in the way of effective implementation of the land laws.

Some States have put forward the plea of lack of finance for the poor implementation of land ceiling laws. Some States have also put forward the plea for financial assistance either as loan or grant. The loan is asked for to pay compensation to the surplus land-owners. Under the ceiling laws it was generally envisaged that the acquisition of surplus land will be a self-paying proposition in the sense that money will be realised from the beneficiaries in small instalments spread over years to pay the surplus land-owners.

Many State Governments felt that they must pay the surplus land-owner in lump sum or in shorter periods. Several State Governments even doubted if the money due from the beneficiaries would ever be realised. Some State Governments have urged that the administrative machinery to implement ceiling laws has to be strengthened and the extra money needed for this purpose cannot be found from the resources of the State. But this attitude must be interpreted as advancing excuses for not implementing the ceiling laws. The question of compensation would arise only after the surplus land has been actually assessed and the States are far from having completed this preliminary task.

The official survey comments, "while some of the factors mentioned above may contribute to the inadequate implementation of the ceiling laws in a particular State, the general conclusion is inescapable that these by themselves do not account for the overall poor performance in the country as a whole. The fact is that *we have still not been able to generate enough political will* and mobilise public opinion to sustain the land reform measures. In the absence of this political will, one shortcoming or the other mentioned above has only aggravated the situation. But unless this basic factor is taken account of, the removal of shortcomings is unlikely to make much difference in the present situation". In these circumstances it is impossible to complete the process of implementation of land ceiling laws by the end of June 1976.

Soon after the declaration of emergency last year Congress President Borooah called upon Congress Ministers and all Congressmen holding high public offices to submit the returns of their land-holdings before August 15, 1975. Subsequently it was said from time to time that most Congressmen have filed their returns. The question is why some Congressmen holding responsible positions have not yet filed their returns so far and what action is proposed to be taken against them. It is for the party in power to give the lead. If the political will to implement land laws is present, action would have been taken against the defaulters. The Congress derives its support largely from rural areas and vast number of Congressmen elected to State Assemblies and Parliament are from rural areas. Political realities cannot be ignored.

The average farmer is yet to accept that social justice is involved in taking the surplus lands above an arbitrary ceiling and giving it to others. The farmer is asking why if his standard of living is brought down by taking away his surplus lands, those in urban areas are not subjected to ceiling on income and property. At one time it was said that social justice demanded the redistribution of land while later it was suggested that small holdings and concentrated attention by small farmers would increase agricultural production. In any event, if the land ceiling laws are to be faithfully implemented and no scope is to be afforded to evade them, the essential preliminary is, as President Ahmed urged, uptodate land records, covering all aspects of rural occupation, must be compiled.

Dance-Drama On 20-Point Programme

The impact of the proclamation of Emergency and the all-round benefits of the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi's 20-Point Economic Programme were vividly depicted in a ballet produced by the central troupe of the Song and Drama Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The troupe toured the whole of Tamil Nadu since March 1 for over a month, staging more than 30 performances of the programme entitled *"Ini Oru Vidhi Seivom"* ("Now we shall make a resolve") in the districts, in collaboration with the Directorate of Field Publicity. The response from the audience in the rural as well as semi-urban areas was hearty and spontaneous; the crowds running into several thousands in many places.

The concluding performance of this show, which was the thirty-third in the present series, was staged in Madras on 29 March at the Sri Venkata Auditorium of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, Mylapore, Madras under the joint auspices of the Directorate of Field Publicity and the Song and Drama Division.

The show was in two parts-the first part highlighting the dawn of a bright future for the people of India with the proclamation of Emergency and the announcement of the 20-Point Economic Programme by the Prime Minister. The new era of discipline and radical changes on all the fronts is presented with a sense of drama and with the utmost visual effect. Well-known Tamil writer 'Ki Ra' wrote the Tamil script, while the music was by Mrs. V. Sarala Rao. Mr. A.P. Appuni Kartha did the choreography. The second part presented dance sequences from the various regions of India, like Bhil, Kashmiri, Banjara, Bhangra and Naga.

Mr. D. Anjaneyulu, Regional Officer, Directorate of Field Publicity, welcoming the gathering, said that the programme was well-received wherever it was presented.

Mr. M.S. Gopal, Station Director, All India Radio, presiding on the occasion, said that the troupe was sent to Tamil Nadu to project the 20-Point Economic Programme effectively before the masses, after the imposition of the President's rule.

Dr. H.K. Ranganath, Deputy Director, Song and Drama Division, thanked the people of Tamil Nadu for their hospitality to the troupe.

Occasion To Remember Ancient Teachings

H. H. SWAMI KESAVAIAHIJI'S MESSAGE

Sri Rama Navami is not merely a day of rejoicing, but also an occasion to recall to the many valuable lessons enshrined in the utterances and actions of Sri Rama. Although the events depicted in Sri Ramayana belong to remote past, they have still a relevance to contemporary society. Through the ages, Ramayana has exerted a pervasive influence on life and thought and in an effective way moulded the national mind and character. The secret of its appeal lies in the enunciation of truths which are applicable to all people in all times. In an ultimate analysis there is an essential similarity in the problems of human life whether modern or old. We often pride ourselves that ours is an age of science and scientific achievements, but all the same, science is not able to help us solve the many thorny problems confronting man to-day. The relation of the individual to society, harmonizing of man's higher aspirations with the requirements for wordly success, the maladjustments among members of a family and numerous other conflicts and contradictions which abound in one's every day life demand a living philosophy which we may find in the golden pages of Sri Ramayana.

The message of the Ramayana is to all sections of our people belonging to different levels of cultural and intellectual development. The emphasis is on performance of one's duty appropriate to the station in life without undue assertion of rights to resolve the conflict that often arises between rights and duties. Another dictum is adherence to an ethical code without minding the consequences that follow, since all good acts ultimately lead to happy and satisfactory results. The other virtues to be cultivated are truthfulness, development of a social conscience loyalty, faithfulness, concern for the poor and down trodden as exemplified by Sri Rama. Such noble ideals serve to lift us from the ugly squabbles we often witness in the world around us and would enable us to look at practical problems of life in the light of higher ideals set forth in Sri Ramayana. It is a call to action, keeping in view the spiritual background and the larger purpose of life so as to bring as close as possible the ideal and the practical. To-day as in the days of Sri Rama, the ideal man who stands unruffled by the common foibles of humanity, is one full of learning and virtue, self-disciplined, charitable, capable of sacrifice in the larger interests of society and country. The pages of Sri Ramayana also depict the ideal of womanhood in the character of Sri Sita, who though a divine incarnation passes through the whole gamut of human suffering to hold out a shining example of an ideal wife.

The outlook on life as seen in Sri Ramayana is not one of other worldliness or negation of life on earth. The emphasis is that life is meant to live to the fullest and not thrown away considering it illusory although the pleasures and satisfactions are ephemeral. At the same time there is need for developing a higher life through spirituality. One of the important lessons expounded in the Ramayana is that man should realize the oneness of all creation, the fact that it is the same substance that appears in many different forms of life. A natural corollary of the metaphysical position is that he who sees the one spirit in all and all in the one spirit henceforth will look with contempt on no creature. The realization of this ideal will be the greatest contributory factor for cementing the good relations between diverse groups and classes in our country.

Sri Sai Baba with His deep insight into human nature and concern for His devotees, advised them to imbibe the valuable lessons contained in Sri Ramayana. To set an example He participated in the Sri Rama Navami celebrations annually held at Shirdi. In those celebrations thousands belonging to different religions worked in unison. Thereby Sri Sai Baba wanted to show that God is the same by whatever name we worship. Let us on this sacred day recall to our minds the great truths enshrined in Sri Ramayana and rededicate ourselves to practice them in our daily lives for our own benefit.

Om Shanthi! Om Shanthi !!

Om Shanthi !!!

Sri Rama Navami in Sai Mandir

The Universality of the message of Sri Ramayana to all sections of people belonging to different levels of cultural and intellectual development was stressed by the speakers at Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir, Shenoy Nagar, on the occasion of the celebrations of Sri Rama Navami, held on April 8 under the auspices of Sri Sai Baba Bhaktha Samajam. Hon'ble Shri Justice Natarajan of Madras High Court, presided.

His Holiness Swami Kesavaiahji, the Founder-President of the Samajam, in his inspiring message for the occasion, said that "Sri Sai Baba with His deep insight into the human nature and concern for His devotees, advised them to imbibe the valuable lessons contained in Sri Ramayana."

More than 2,000 devotees from all parts of the City and also from mofussil places visited the Mandir and received Sri Sai Baba's Blessings, Udhi and Prasadam from Swamiji.

After prayer Shri M. Uttam Reddy, Chairman of the Samajam, welcomed the gathering and the distinguished guest and said that, over the years Rama Navami has been celebrated in Shirdi on a grand scale both during the lifetime of Sri Sai Baba and there-after. Following the example, our Samajam, under the noble guidance and direction of Swami Kesavaiahji has been celebrating Rama Navami every year.

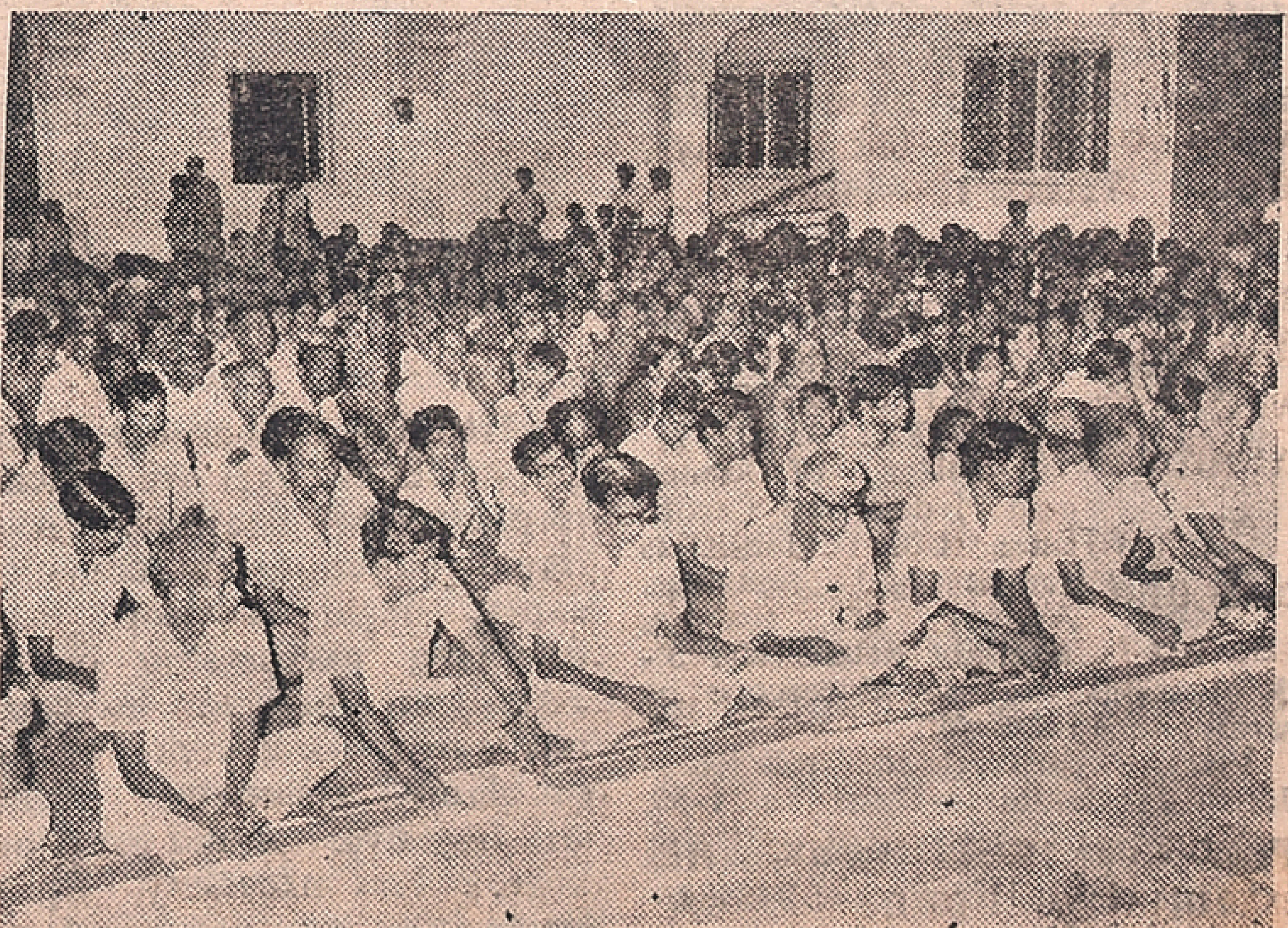
Messages wishing the sacred function a great success have been received among others from the President of India; Vice-President of India; Sri V. V. Giri, Ex-President of India; Sri K. Brahmananda Reddy, Home Minister; Sri C. Subramaniam, Finance Minister; Sri K. K. Shah, Governor of Tamil Nadu; Sri Mohanlal Sukhadia, Governor of Andhra Pradesh; Sri M. Channa Reddy, Governor of Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Balakrishna Joshi, speaking on the occasion, said, "The Ramayana is regarded as the noblest epic of the world. Through the efficacy of the name of Rama Nama, men like Valmiki, Kabir, Tulasidas, Tyagaraja, Gandhiji and others have become great and attained peace and happiness. Rama spoke moderately, truthfully and softly. He was a model husband, brother, a warrior, a great son. We should emulate the example of Sri Rama. Sri Sai Baba is worshipped as 'Sai Ram'. Thousands come to Sri Swamiji, the chosen apostle of Sri Sai Baba, for a spiritual solace. We shall pay homage to Sri Sai Baba on this occasion."

Speaking on the occasion, Sri K. Venkatasubramaniam, Direc-

(Continued on page 10)

Swamiji is blessing Justice S. Natarajan on the occasion.



A section of the devotees who attended the Ramanavami celebrations.

For The Week 11th April To 17th April 1976

MESHA (ARIES)
Aswini Bharani
Krittika 1/4

MIXED results are indicated. You should be able to solve domestic problems. Avoid friction with family members. Some will be thinking of making certain important changes in Bussiness. But it is better to wait for some more time. Financial problems should be handled properly to avoid complications later. Legal matters should be handled properly. Change of place is indicated. Favourable days 12—4—76 and 13—4—76.

★

VRISHABA (TAURUS)
Krittika 3/4 Rohini
Mrigashirsha 1/2

MILDLY favourable period. Financial position will improve. Favourable changes are indicated in profession. Health will improve. Family matters could be finalised. Avoid friction with associates. And also avoid journey, unless necessary. Problems relating to brothers or sisters should be handled properly. Avoid speculations. Favourable days: 14—4—76 and 15—4—76.

★

MITHUNA (GEMINI)
Mrigashirsha 1/2 Arudra
Punarvasu 3/4

FAVOURABLE period to finalise business matters. Financial position will improve. Partnership matters could be finalised. Some will be undertaking a journep shortly. Speculative gains are also indicated. Health require attention. Avoid impulsive actions. Property matters should be handled pros perly to avoid complications. Problems relating to brothers or sisters should be handled properly. Favourable days. 16—4 75 and 17—4—76.

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KATAKA (CANCER)
Punarvasu 1/4 Pushya
Ashlesha

YOU should wait for some more time to finalise important matters. Avoid arguments with family members. You should not be alarmed or discouraged due to recent developments. But, it is better to keep certain important matters pending and wait for a better opportunity. You can expect favourable results from relatives, living in foreign countries. Health require attention. Favourable days: 12—4—76 and 13—4—76.

★

SIMHA (LEO)
Maka Purva Palguni
Uttara Palguni 1/4

MIXED results are indicated. Business matters could be finalised. Financial position will show signs of improvement. Health will be well maintained. You will be undertaking a journey shortly, regarding business matter. You can expect help and cooperation from partners. You may also finalise new partnership deals. Family matters should be handled properly. Legal matters should be handled carefully to avoid complications. Avoid friction with superiors. Avoid speculations. Favourable daysi 14—4—76 and 15—4—76

★

KANYA (VIRGO)
Uttara Palguni 3/4 Hastha
Chitra 1/2

MILDLY favourable period. Important changes are indicated in partnership matters. Avoid impulive actions and consult an expert legal advisor before finalising partnership matters. Family members will be cooperative in solving some of your problems. Financial position will improve. Avoid long jounneys, unless necessary. Speculative gains could be expected. Avoid friction with superiors. Favourable days: 16—4—76 & 17—4—76.

THULA (LIBRA)
Chitra 1/2 Swathi
Visakha 3/4

MIXED results are indicated. You may have to face much opposition and rivalry. Some will be undertaking a journey shortly. Financial position will improve. Family matters could be finalised. Changes are also indicated in profession. Change of place is indicated and you should be prepared to shift your residence or office shortly. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Favourable days: 11—4—76 and 12—4—76.

★

VRISCHIKA (SCORPIO)
Vishakha 1/4 Anuradha
Jyeshtha

MILDLY favourable period. You will be taking up additional responsibilities. Work load will increase, but you can expect favourable results for the efforts you are making. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains could be expected. Problem relating children could be solved. Health require attention. Favourable changes are indicated in profession. Some will be switching over to some other better job. Avoid jouneys, necessary. Favourabte days: 12—4—76 and 18—4—76.

★

DHANUS (SAGITTARIUS)
Mula Purva Ashadha
Uttara Ashadha 1/4

MIXED results are indicated. Property matters could be finalised. Speculative gains through property transactions could be expected. Health require attention. You should also take precautions against accidents. Changes are indicated in profession. Avoid arguments with superiors. Family matters and problems relating to children should be handled properly to avoid complications. It is better to wait for some more time to finalise important matters. Favourable days: 14—4—76 and 15—4—76.

GLOSSARY

Arudra	—திருவாதிரை
Pushya	—பூசம்
Ashlesha	—ஆயில்யம்
Purva Phalguni	—பூரம்
Uttara Phalguni	—உத்திரம்
Anuradha	—அனுஷம்
Jyeshtha	—கேட்டை
Purva Ashada	—பூராடம்
Uttara Ashada	—உத்திராடம்
Shravana	—திருவோணம்
Dhanistha	—அவிட்டம்
Satha Bhishag	—சதயம்
Purva Bhadra-pada	—பூரட்டாதி
Uttara Bhadra-pada	—உத்திரட்டாதி

MAKARA (CAPRICORNUS)
Uttara Ashadha 3/4
Shravana Dhanistha 1/2

FAVOURABLE period. Changes are indicated in profession. You should try to switch over to a better job now. Financial position will improve. Family matters could be finalised. Property transactions should be handled properly to avoid complications. You should not worry about opposition and rivalry. You should take strict steps to solve the problems. Family members should be made to contribute to the progress and share the responsibility. Favourable days: 16—4—76 and 17—4—76.

★

KUMBHA (AQUARIUS)
Dhanishta 1/2 Sathabhishag
Purva Badrapada 3/4

FAVOURABLE period to finalise business matters. Family matters could be finalised. You can expect help and cooperation from family members. Rivalry and opposition will subside. Financial position will improve. Speculative gains are also indicated. Problems relating to brothers or sisters should be handled properly. Problems are also indicated relating to transport and communication. You should be prepared for unexpected developments on 12-4-76 and 13—4—76.

★

MEENA (PISCES)
Purva Badrapada 1/4
Uttara Badrapada Revati

MIXED results are indicated. Family matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Financial position will improve, but you should avoid heavy commitments. Health require attention. Avoid taking up additional responsibility. Matters relating to children should be handled properly. Property matters could be finalised Problems relating to brothers and sisters should be avoided. Partnership matters should be handled properly to avoid complications. Avoid speculations. You should be prepared for unexpected devements on 14-4-76 and 15-4-76.

Preservation Of Monuments: Excellent Response From Students

[There has been a tremendous response from students in preserving the monuments under the National Service Scheme. Last week we published the activities of N.S.S. in some States. In the foregoing concluding report activities in other states are dealt with.]

KARNATAKA

Four local colleges have adopted 'Hampi' monument as part of the regular NSS work. The orientation for Karnataka University volunteers was held at Hampi in the second week of December, 1975. 60 volunteers and their NSS officers participated. Gangavati College has planned a camp at Hampi for 50 NSS volunteers. Mysore and Bangalore Universities also arrange orientation course to train volunteers for involvement in the work of preservation and development of *Srirangapatnam* in the second week of December, 1975. N.S.S. Unit of J.R. College of Engineering Mysore organised a camp from January 29, 1976 to February 7, 1976 involving about 45 students at Srirangapatnam for undertaking scientific excavation of the old palaces of Tippu Sultan.

UTTAR PRADESH

The University of Lucknow has adopted the Residency of Lucknow for regular NSS work. Mahila College, Lucknow organised a 10-day camp from November 26, 1975 to December 6, 1975 for its cleaning and preservation. 50 girls participated in the camp. They cleaned the compound and the walls of the Residency. Lectures from eminent persons were also arranged for the benefit of students. The students were given necessary information regarding methods of preservation; the State Director of Archives gave a demonstration lecture. The volunteers have adopted the main building of Residency for preservation and beautification. A group discussion was held at Residency Building, Lucknow on February 8, 1976 in connection with the participation of students in the preservation of the ancient monuments, in which 200 NSS volunteers (boys and girls) from different colleges of the city accompanied with their NSS programme Officers participated. Then the volunteers consulted Professors of History and Officers of Archaeological Department. A group discussion was also held at Agra on January 11, 1976 in which about 350 students participated. After the discussion, the volunteers divided themselves into groups and undertook operations at different monuments.

ANDHRA PRADESH

Two colleges near *Golconda* have taken up the work at Golconda Fort, and one of the colleges of Andhra University, Waltair the work at Warangal Fort as part of their regular NSS activities. 30 NSS Volunteers from S V. Arts College, Tirupati, Sri G R.S. Arts College Tirupati, S.V. Oriental College, and History Department of S.V. University cleaned and repaired the monuments at *Chandragiri* on February 7 & 8, 1976.

MADHYA PRADESH

Indore University, held a camp at Mandu from December 25 to 28, 1975 for about 200 Adivasi students for removing debris, levelling grounds and beautification of paths. Notes on Mandu monuments were distributed to students and others. Ravishankar University of Raipur organised a camp at Malhar (Bilaspur) in the 1st week of January, 1976 for about 300 students. This monument has been adopted by this University. Indira Kala Sangeet Vishvidyalaya, Khairagarh held a 10-day camp at Bhoramdeo Temple and attended to its cleanliness.

KERALA

S.M. College, Cannanore and Victoria College, Palghat have adopted monuments at Cannanore and Gadapuram respectively for regular NSS work (every Sunday/Holiday). The work started in the 1st week of December, 1975. Shri Narayan College, Sivagiri of Kerala University organised a special camp from December 23, 1975 to January 1, 1976 involving 34 students. Besides other projects the campers worked at *Angelo* Fort. They cut the bushy growth inside and outside the fort, cleaned the premises and levelled the ground. D.B. College, Thalayalapparampu of Kerala University has adopted the *Pundareekapuram* Temple for work. A 10—day camp was held in December, 1975. The statue of Swadesha Bhimani Ramakrishna Pillai is of the veteran freedom fighter of Travancore and is a national memorial. NSS Volunteers of V.T. Memorial College, Dhanuvachapuram of Kerala University visited and cleaned the statue on October 16, 1975. 5 colleges in Trivandrum, Quilon and Alleppy have adopted seven other monuments. Nine monuments have been allotted to Calicut University. Kerala State has several old temples, mosques, churches and forts of historical importance.

RAJASTHAN

A special camp at 'Chittorgarh, was organised from December 22 to December 31, 1975. In all 550 persons participated including 450 girl students and 9 teachers. The monument at Neelkant will also be taken up for arranging a boys' camp in cooperation with the Archaeological Survey of India.

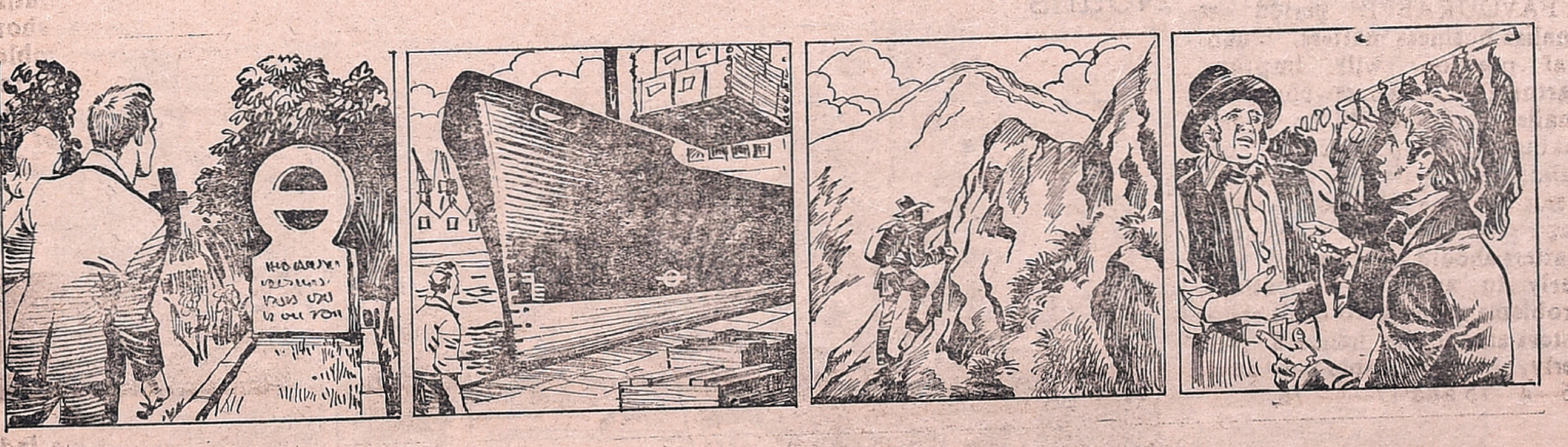
WEST BENGAL

In December, 1975 two special camps were organised by Burdwan University; one at Gaur, and one at Pandua; one camp at Sat Deul Deulia in the last week of January 1976 involving 51 participants was also organised. Jadavpur University has taken up the programme of preservation of monuments and memorials at Jadavpur and in the adopted villages at Sonarpur, Subhashgram, Mallikpore and Baruipur. Calcutta University held five special camps in

(Contd. on page 8)

Names Into Nouns

Samuel Plimsoll



Visitors to a Folkestone cemetery in south-eastern England are sometimes curious when they notice a grave with a headstone of a strange shape, a circle crossed by a horizontal line. Closer inspection tells them it is a very fitting headstone for Samuel Plimsoll (1824-1898), who worked so hard to introduce a safety loading line on shipping.

Plimsoll's fight to have this line marked on the hulls of British ships, indicating the maximum depth to which shipping might be lagally loaded, resulted in its being called the Plimsoll Line. Strangely, Plimsoll had no connection with the sea until he was 46, when he began a crusade to reduce the hazards faced by seamen because of overloading.

Although he had been born near the sea at Bristol in the west of England, Samuel spent his childhood in the Lake District of the north, finding adventure climbing the Lakeland peaks, before the family moved to Sheffield. Here the young lad became an office boy to a solicitor, and like so many self-made men of his day attended night school.

Right from the start he had a flair for business and spent the savings from his meagre earnings in buying hare-skins, and selling them at a profit by sending them to London. By the time he was 20 he was a clerk in a brewery and supporting his widowed mother and her younger children.

(Contd. on next page)

FUN AND LAUGHTER

RIGHT GIFT!

"What a peculiar choice for a wedding present," remarked a woman trying not to laugh, as she inspected a huge flat-iron her charwoman had just bought.

"Ain't it, ma am?" said the charwoman. "It's my sister that's getting married, and I'm repaying her for the gift she sent on my weddin' day."

"Did she send you something very ugly, then?"

"No, ma'am. Hers was a beautiful present. But, you see, ma'am, a little bird whispered to me that her future husband's a man of violent temper, and I thought I'd send her something that would be useful in case of family disputes. She has the straightest aim with a flat-iron I've ever seen!"

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COMPOUNDED ASAFOETIDA
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ECONOMY!

Thinking of encouraging his wife to economize by making her conscious of her expenditures, the husband bought her an account book, gave her $ 100 and explained:

"Now, dear, on one side you write down the money you received and on the other you put down what happened to it, and you'll always know just where you stand."

Several days later he looked in the book and on one side found: "Received $ 100," and on the other side was written: "Spent it all."

* * *

WILL NOT DO!

"Father," said the student, "I want to talk to you about changing my course of study."

"Talk to your mother, son," replied the father, who was reading the sporting page.

"Mother," said the son, "I made a mistake when I chose chemistry. But it is not too late to change even yet. I want to take astronomy instead."

The mother said: No! You'll have to think out some better excuse for staying out atnight!"

* * *

HANDS FULL!

An editor, being asked at dinner if he would take some pudding, replied, in a fit of abstraction:

"Owing to a crowd of other matter, we are unable to find room for it."

GRAZING LADY!

In one small Kentucky town there lived a lady who sold newspaper advertising to grocery stores.

It was her habit, while the merchant was looking over the ad, to wander about the premises, helping herself to an apple here, a cookie there, a bunch of grapes elsewhere. One merchant wasn't very happy about this. One month he kept secret tab of her refreshments.

At about the time he got his advertising bill, she received a dum from him with this lone entry:

"For grazing $ 1.00."

* * *

LISTEN, GRAVITY!

A small girl was given to asking unusual questions. One of the things she wanted to know was why objects tossed into the air always fell to the ground. Papa answered this puzzler as best he could—with this remarkable result:

Soon afterward the little girl was romping on the beach and became annoyed because her trunks kept slipping down, hampering her busy legs. Finally she halted and said sternly: "Listen, gravity, you quit pulling my pants down. Stop it."

Fair Compensation

Two partners were running a big firm. One day one of them was found to be on his deathbed.

Naturally the other partner came to see him.

The dying man began to confess his sins.

"Dear Partner," he lamented, "Once I took out currency notes for a sum of Rs. 500 unknown to you. Once I read some of your love letters from your drawers. I awfully regret for those sins. I shall silently die if you will say me that you have excused me. O, in God's name pardon me..."

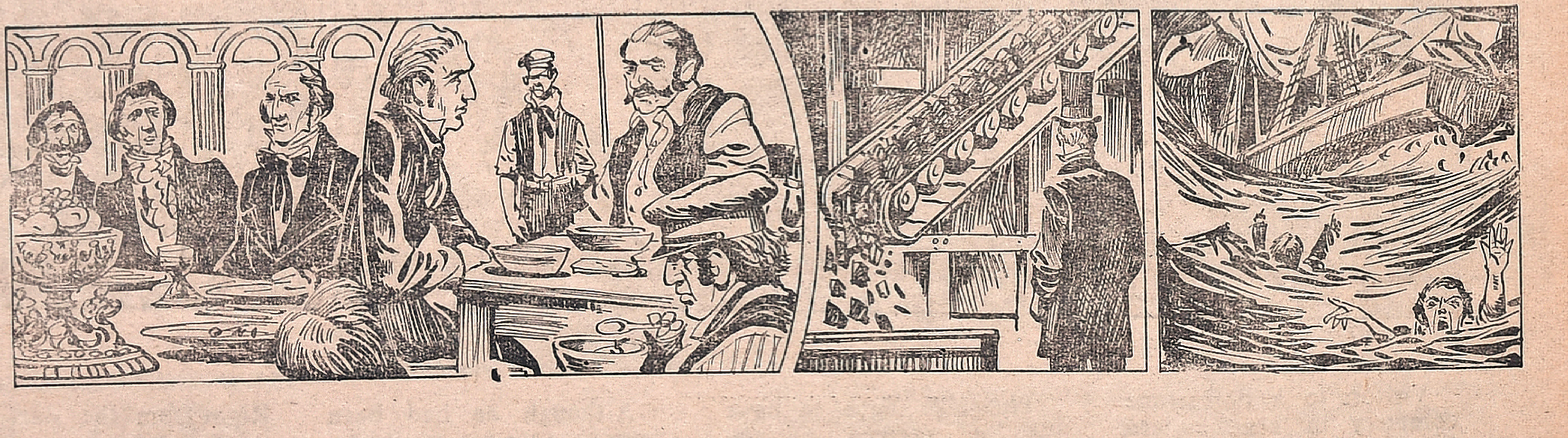
"Don't worry! Don't worry!" said the other partner. "I have poisoned you just now."

Runaway Wievs

The Tracers Company of America, a New York-based firm of investigators of missing people, is not suffering from ecomic recession. It is being kept very busy by husbands looking for their runaway wives. In the 1960s there were 300 runaway husbands to one runaway wife and today the ratio is two to one in favour of women. American sociologists attribute the increase in missing wives to growing assertiveness fostered by the women's liberation movement and increasing economic difficulties, one of them the impossibility of making ends meet.

From previous page

Names Into Nouns



He first became involved in the coal industry by organising relief committees following mine disasters, then put forward a scheme to increase the coal trade by rail to London, travelling backwards and forwards to the capital at his own expense, keeping up appearances with business contacts in Sheffield and living uncomfortably in London.

Plimsoll almost ruined himself in his vain efforts to convince the railway of the validity of his scheme. The nights he spent in working men's lodging-houses left him with an undying admiration and sympathy for the simple working men, always ready to share the little they had with their fellows.

Sheffield colliery owners recognised Plimsoll's business acumen and when he married in 1857 he was already a prosperous London coal merchant. He had invented and patented a coal shoot floored with iron bars which sifted the coal dust from the good coal, greatly reducing the wastage then current in coal handling.

Having done much to organise London's fuel supply, he was a very wealthy man by his early forties and was elected to Parliament in 1868. Two years later he heard a shipowner, James Hall speak eloquently of the terrible loss of life needlessly suffered at sea because unseaworthy ships grossly over-loaded often went down.

Cash in On These Cucurbits

Fresh and green cucurbits are available when vegetables are usually scarce. Growing them could, therefore, be really profitable.

Needling much less care than most vegetables, cucurbits can produce abundantly in quite a short period.

However, good seed and clean cultivation are a must for that high yield. Seeds bought from a reliable source are pure and disease-free. Regular weeding and digging will keep the field clean by keeping the unwanted weeds out. Weeds not only compete for food, moisture and pasce but also shelter many a pest and virus. Digging, in addition, will aerate the soil and kill the pupae of beetles. A clean field also helps in spotting out the presence of pests and diseases early.

For, in spite of the best cultural care these enemies may find their way and cause huge damages, if not checked on time. A plot of luxuriant growing cucurbits is rather irresistible.

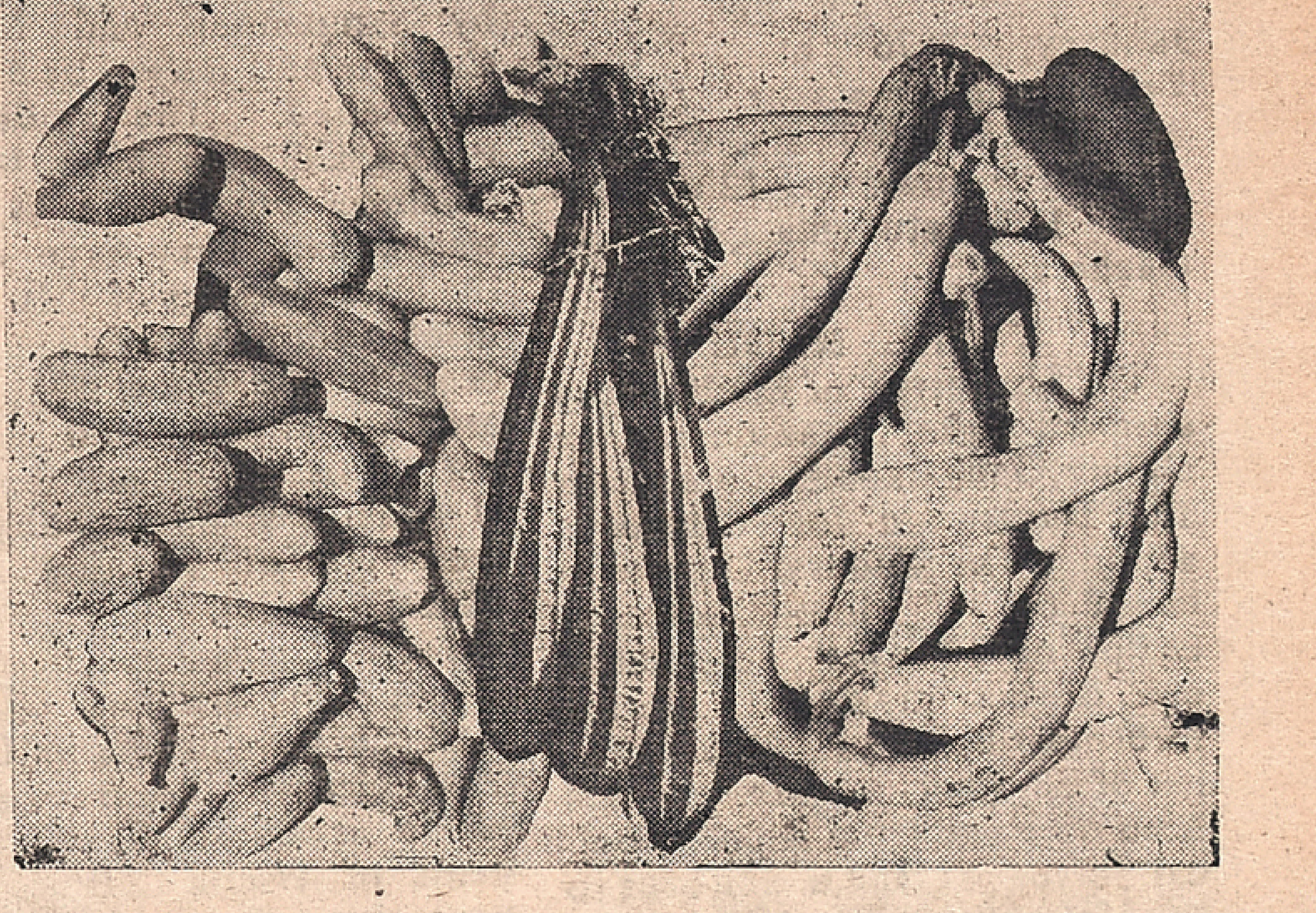
Beetles are the most regular among the numerous uninvited guests with a taste for all the cucurbits, except the bitter gourds. Most active during March and April, they cannot do much to the early sown crops as they like the germinating plants best. In small areas, handpicking in the mornings and dropping them in kerosene water would do. A mixture of wood ash and kerosene oil spread on the crop in the mornings can also drive them away. Chemical control includes spraying Roger at 2 ml. per litre of water every 8 to 10 days before fruiting. This will control aphids too. If cutworms also come, mixing BHC in the hills before sowing will help. Fruit fly, the other major pest, can be kept at bay by spraying insecticides (like Lebacid) in early stages of fruit development. Once they get into the fruits it becomes difficult to save these. All the damaged fruits must be collected and destroyed. The adult flies can be trapped by baitina. Malathion 0.9 per cent can be sprayed in the case of a severe attack. Yellow and withered plants are the handi-work of a virus. If such plants are not pulled out at once, the infection spreads fast all over the field.

Spraying of Benlate 0.2 per cent at 2 gm in one litre of water at weekly intervals is effective against anthracnose disease, which appears as numerous water-soaked spots, first on the leaves and then on the fruits causing a huge loss. All sprayings must be stopped about 10 to 15 days before picking of fruits for consumption.

After harvest all debris must be collected and burnt to prevent the spread of the infection to the next crop.

Like all vegetables cucurbits are best raised with a lot of bulky organic manures. As a rule, half of their food needs should be met through manures and the rest through fertilizers. For most vegetables, raised during summers and rainy seasons 25 tonnes of farmyard manure is required for a hectare to be supplemented with fertilizers.

Where the water is not that plentiful, mulching, especially in dry summers, can help conserve moisture. It will also maint in a uniform soil temperature and check weeds.



So this season, aim at a higher cucurbit yield by keeping the pests at bay.

THE GOURDS

The improved varieties in bottlegourd inclu le Pusa Summer, P olific Round, Pusa Summer Prolific Long, Pusa Manjari and Pusa Meghdoot. The last two are hybrids.

The seeds are sown in furrows 60 to 90 cm. apart or in hills one metre apart. Usually, 3 or 4 seeds are sown per hill and later thinned to two per hill. About 6 kg seeds are needed per hectare. To hasten the germination, some growers keep the seeds in warm ash or fresh cowdung for one or two days, after tying the seeds in a moist cloth. Top-dress the vines with ammonium sulphate once when they start growing and again at fruitset using 40 kg, each time. You can expect an yield of 150 to 200 quintals per hectare.

Easy-to-grow sponge and ridge gourd can be sown up to June-July. For an early crop, seeds need to be pre-germinated.

The new variety of sponge gourd, Pilibhit is resistant to beetles. The other popular improved variety is Pusa Ghikni, which is more suited for summents.In ridge gourd, the improved varieties are Pusa Nasdar and Yard Long.

Each vine, on an average, yields 25 to 30 fruits. The per hectare yield can range between 100 to 150 quintals.

For sowing, 1 to 1.5 kg of seeds are required in the case of ridge gourd. These gourds need less feeding. It will do to give

(Contd. on Page 10)

Samuel Plimsoll

Plimsoll made it his business to learn everything about the laws that govened shipping and conditions at sea. While he was able to talk to ships' officers on equal terms, the common touch he had learnt in the lodging-houses meant he was also quick to gain the confidence of ordinary seamen.

He found that the laws regarding safety were inadequate and often ignored. He realised the Royal Commission on Unseaworthy Ships he had persuaded Parliament to set up was not enough. Public opinion had to be aroused. In a Parliamentary holiday, with his wife Eliza at his side, he went to a fishing village to write a book about it.

This higly emotional book brought Plimsoll close to financial disaster for among many valid accusations of neglect were others not totally correct and he was charged. Fortunately, after a long trial, the judge decided one aggrieved owner's ship had sunk because of over-loading although his ships had not been habitually overload. Plimsoll wasnot convicted of criminal libel.

When Plimsoll stood again for Parliament he did so not only for Derby but for all Britain's seamen and was re-elected. The defeat of his Bill proposing many shipping reforms, drove him to make an inflammatory outburst in Parliament it created a great uproar but he later apologised.

(Contd. on next page)

From page 5

January, 1976 at *Palpara Temple, Bhubeneswar Temple, Murshid Kuli's Tomb, Chandra Ketu's Fort* involving 12 colleges and 150 students and 12 teachers.

TAMIL NADU

The University of Madras has adopted the monuments at Gingee,Gangaikondacholapuram and Darasuram for continuous action. The Madurai University conducted Inter-University camps of 10 days' duration at each of these monuments during December holidays. Besides, a list of 58 other monuments has been obtained from Archaeological Survey of Ind a and sent to the Universities The University-wise adoption of these monuments is as follows:

Madras University ... 35 additional monuments
Madurai University ... 21 -do-
Agricultural University ... 2 do-

DELHI

The Adilabad monument has been adopted by Dayal Singh College, Sultan Ghari by Rao Tula Ram College, Tughlaqabad by Shri Aurobindo College and Lal Kot by Atma Ram Sanatan Dharam College for regular NSS work. Sixty volunteers (boys and girls) of Shri Aurobindo College held a camp at Tughlaqabad Fort from December 27, 1975 to January 5, 1976 to give a new look to this fort.

MAHARASHTRA

Two monuments-*Kanheri* & *Bassein* have been adopted by Bombay University for regular work. *Junnar* has been adopted by Sangamner and Mancher Colleges and *Raigad* by a college at Mahad. The students of Poona Colleges have taken a common programme at Shaniwarawada. They have cleaned the Surroundings of this monument and now they propose to beaut fy the same by planting ornamental plants and developing lawns. Further, the Poona University students have taken the work of cleaning *Parvati Temple Caves, Sati Ramebai Monument, Pashwa Palace at Theur*. The students of Baramati Colleges in Poona District have cleaned the Babuji Naik Wada at Baramati. The students of Wadia College, Poona have decided to undertake the work of cleaning *Mahadji Shinde's Chhatri* at *Wanavadi*. The students of Abbasaheb Garware College have decided to undertake the work of cleaning Samadhis of Peshwa Holkar Gaikwad. The students of Marathwada University have undertaken the common programme of Cleaning the historical Bibika Makbara at Aurangabad. They are doing this work regularly on Sundays and holidays. They would take up work at Daulattabad Fort in May, 1976. The work at Aurangabad was not confined only to removing garbage and developing lawns, but it included some research aspect also. Students from two colleges have been assigned the work of carrying out excavation of a mound in front of *Bibi-Ka-Makbara*, which appears to have some ancient monument buried under it. The work of excavation would be supervised by Professors of History. Students of Bombay University have worked at the monument of a Budhist Stupa at Malasopara. NSS Units of the colleges of Nagpur University near the monuments at Padampur, Titota Khairi, Gondi and Sawargaon have decided to look after these monuments. Poona University organised an exhibition of Photos in conection with monuments from March 5 to 7, 1976, in the State Institute of Education, Poona. Photos of almost all monuments of India would be displayed.

NORTH EASTERN HILL UNIVERSITY

The North-Eastern Hill University, Shillong has sent a list of 12 Centrally protected Monuments (8 in Meghalaya and 4 in Nagaland) to the Principals of the Colleges to take up work at the monuments.

Weapon That Failed

The powerful strike movement sweeping France of late did not bypass the Tissages et Soieries Reunis company of Grand Croix in the Loire Department. The striking women workers have seized the enterprise. The employers retaliated by switching off the light and then heating-to no effect. After that they resorted to another weapon—rats; fat, smooth and brought up in laboratory conditions. They were expected to frighten the women into leaving the factory. The weapon was of no avail. The strike went on.

Tape Expands To Protect During Fire

FIRE-FLEX intumescent tape protects cables and other produc s from brief, intense fires. When exposed to sufficient h at, FIRE-FLEX quickly expands into a bubbly char that insulates and protects the interior.

FIRE-FLEX - wrapped fuel lines survived in one test, for example, three to four minutes of a gasoline fi e; unprotected lines were destroyed within 30 seconds or less Typical temperatures range from 1.600 to 2,300 degrees fahrenheit (862 to 1,247 degrees centigra e) in this type of fire.

The American manufacturer, AVCO Systems Division in Lowell, Massachusett's, who developed all 26 heatshields for Apollo three-man spacecraft, says that FIRE-FLEX is an epoxy that can be easily wrapped or bonded to a wide range of combustible substances. Intumescence (swelling and bubbling) occurs in three to five seconds when the temperature reaches 1,100-1.680 degrees fahrenheit sous (287-906 degrees centigrade)

FIRE-FLEX gives off no dange gases when exposed to heat, only water, carbon dioxide aud trace of ammonia.

Hold-up Girls

The "NewYork Times" reports that hold-ups by juveniles in the city.s parks are becoming increasingly frequent. Very often these crimes are perpetrated by teen age girls. Recently a group of thirteen-year-old girls attacked 80-year-old Stella Epstein in Central Park. They knocked her down and took her bag.

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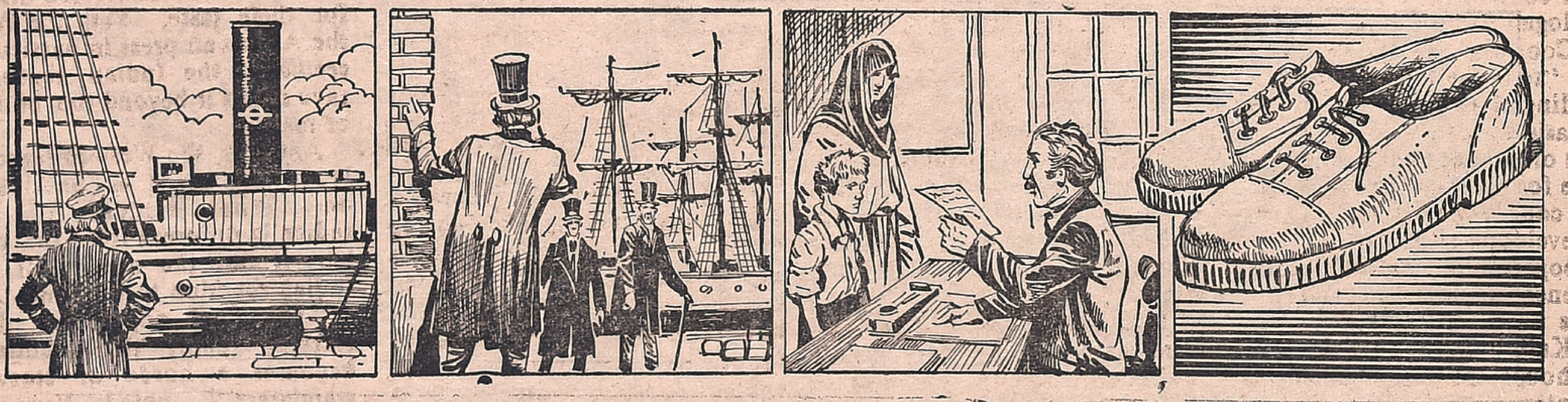
Names Into Nouns

Samuel Plimsoll



All the publicity surrounding these events increased public demand for the protection of seamen and in 1876 a Bill was passed making his load-line compulsory. It did not how-ever impose a penalty if the line were submerged. Plimsoll noted angrily that one skipper contemptuously painted the line on his ship's funnel.

During a tour of foreign ports where British ships were moored, Plimsoll, on the verge of collapse through overwork, was dissatisfied with what he saw. In 1876 a more stringent law was passed which, as it applied to foreign ships leaving British ports, led to the general adoption of the loading line by maritime countries.

Known as "the Sailor's Friend" Plimsoll continued to work for seamen for the rest of his life. He denounced the terrible conditions under which cattle were transported on some cattle-ships. One of his last campaigns was for compensation for the relatives of a crew which had gone down with an overloaded cattle ship.

An international load-line was adoptdd by 30 nations in 1930 and modified in 1968 for the larger ships of today. It is not only seamen who use Plimsoll's name but also sportsmen. They usually do not know that their rubber-soled shoes are sometimes called plimsolls becanse the rubber extends half-way into the uppers. Like the load-line on a ship. —END.

[NEXT WEEK—NEW SERIES—WOMEN OF COURAGE]

Muscovite's Diary

Ivan Ivanov

MEETING OF THE SOVIET-INDIAN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL COMMISSION

A regular meeting of the Soviet-Indian Inter-Governmental Commission on Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation ended last week after discussing matters of mutual interest. Both sides had high praise for the development of stable and varied economic cooperation and trade between the Soviet Union and India which was started more than 20 years ago.

The meeting discussed scientific problems in advancing Soviet-Indian cooperation in the key industries of India's public sector, including ferrous metallurgy, machine building, oil and coal production and mining. Development of production between India and the Soviet Union as well as the present condition and the development of Soviet-Indian cooperation in the applied sciences and technology.

The commission's work represents an important step forward in implementing the agreement on developing trade and economic cooperation between the USSR and India, which was signed by Leonid Brezhnev and Mrs. Indira Gandhi in November 1973 in India.

ASIA WEEK

Commenting on the Asia week held at the call of the world peace council, and keynoted by the slogan "For Peace, Security and Cooperation", the PRAVDA says, "to strive towards the safeguarding of security in Asia on the basis of joint efforts of the states of the continent means to assure for all the peoples favourable conditions for their peaceful development along the lines of cooperation, national independence and social progress".

The noted commentator Vsevold Kalinin in an article says, that though the improvement in the international situation and the positive changes that took place as a result of the victories of the peoples of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia opened new prospects for the continent the worlds largest for its population, still there are many obstacles on the way towards safeguarding durable peace in Asia.

"Imperialism and local reaction would not abandon their attempts to establish new military-political alliances in the place of the disintegrating blocs of SEATO type", he has pointed out.

The writer has also stressed that the policy of Peking which seeks to prevent the relaxation of tension in Asia, is lining up with the position of imperialism in that area.

The public of Asian countries actively come out for turning the Indian Ocean into a zone of peace and they are fully determined to eliminate imperialism's strong points on the continent, he notes.

Pointing out that development of cooperation between states on the basis of full equally and mutual benefit is a very important factor of consolidating national independence, the author says: "The USSR, being not only a European, but also an Asian country, displays particular interest in the consolidation of peace in Asia. The USSR's manysided cooperation with Asian countries is aimed at establishing the industrial base of emergent states, helps overcome backwardness and consolidate their economic and political indep ndence".

FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE CENTURIES

Chronoligizing Moscow has been the difficult and honourable mission of many generations of historians. A special problem is presented by its first pages describing the emergence, in a backwoods of the Principality of Vladimir, in a picturesque spot on the high watershed of the Moskva and Neglinka rivers where the Kremlin stands today and long before the arrival of Prince Dolgoruky's guard, of a Slav settlement which marked the beginning of Moscow.

The interior of the Borovitsky Hill, luing and enveloped in legend, has long attracted historians who dream of finding deep under the earth such priceless Kremlin treasures as Ivan the Terrible's famous library and ancient depositories and caches. In 1682 the Kremlin basements were explored by clerk Vasily Makarlee, but his searches of the secret chambers were unsuccessful. Sacristan Konan Osipov also met with failure in 1724.

The genuinely scientific archaeological exploration of the territory of the Moscow Kremlin got underway when an expedition was mounted by the Institute of Archaeology of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Moscow History and Reconstruction Museum in 1959–1960. Wooden Moscow of an early period has been preserved at a depth of five to six metres below the present asphalt.

For the Kremlin archaeologists the year 1975 was unusually successful. Recent finds include the work of Moscow potters, black-smiths, cobblers and jewellers

Special interest is generated by the unspoken signs of fighting in the Kremlin seen by the arms and armour that have been unearthed. A great discovery of late was a steel sword that was found on the bottom of an ancient Kremlin moat. It is a very rare example of the work of a 12th-century Western European gunsmith and the blade bears the name of its maker.

There are two sets of 16th-century armour. The unique ornaments of the helmets of local make—a fine silver inlay—testify to the high workmanship of Russian armourers.

Quite recently a valuable exhibit was added to the archaeological collection of the Kremlin. A piece of armour belonging to the so called bakhterts type was unearthed excavations in the Invanovskaya square of a "layer" that dates back to the 15th–16th century.

The Fascinating World Of Satyajit Ray

By CHIDANANDA DASGUPTA

(Mr. Das Gupta is a well known film critic and author of Calcutta.)

"One of the biggest retrospectives of my work," said Satyajit Ray of the showing of 17 of his films at the John F. Kennedy Centre for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., recently. It was in fact, one of the biggest retrospectives of any film director's work in the world.

Never has Ray's recognition in the West been greater than it is now. And nowhere is it more remarkable than in the United States. American journalist Warren Unna noted that most of the people who attended the retrospective could recite the theme and details of every Ray film produced in the past two decades.

And there have been 20 films in the last 20 years. In the beginning Ray was influenced by a host of American directors whose work he saw in Calcutta as a young man. Lubisch, Hawks, Capra, Ford, Wyler and Wilder were then his particular favourites.

Like Rabindranath Tagore, whose work he has adapted, Ray is a man of many parts—he writes his own scripts, composes his own music and is known as a children's author and graphic artist as well as film-maker.

It is the artist in him that elevated his films to a different level. And the excited, popular response to his early work has inspired many creative film-makers like Ritwik Ghatak' Mrinal Sen and Tapan Sinha.

Though Ray is known best, both in India and abroad, for his Apu trilogy he has turned out subtle masterpieces like *Music Room* (1958), *Kanchenjunga* (1962), *Charulata* (1964), *Days and Nights in the Forest* (1969), and *Distant Thunder* (1973).

Over the years, he has won innumerable awards in the West, including the Golden Lion of St. Mark in Venice, the Golden Bear and two Best Director awards in Berlin, "Best Film For 1957' and "Best Director Of The Year" (1959) at San Francisco, an honorary doctorate from London University, "Most Outstanding International Film Director of Half-a-Century" from the British Federation of Film Societies.

However, the depth and extent of the Western response to Ray often mystifies Indians. Sometimes even his ardent admirers at home are baffled by the chorus of praise abroad that greets those films to which their own response is lukewarm.

His detractors have always suggested that his reputation in India is due merely to the Western praise of his work, that if any of his films have done well with the home audiences it is because of their success abroad, that he makes films with an eye to the West and he succeeds because he gives them an eyeful of the poverty they want to see.

Indeed it is tempting to conclude that this praise is just uncritical adulation induced by the exotic appeal of his work. The response to *Distant Thunder* is often cited as a case in point. The film was dismissed even by the perceptive audience in India as too beautiful; people expected to see something of the horror of famine and were disappointed to find the thunder too distant for their taste. Yet, the West, the American press in particular, seems to the Indian reader to rave about it beyond the bounds of reason.

Actually, the Western response is by no means an unthinking one. What is more, it is not radically different from the content if not the quality of the Indian reaction to the film.

"The final apparition of a starving family that suddenly becomes a horde of starving wanderers," noted *Newsweek* "must carry too much weight in the design of the film.... In *Distant Thunder* Ray has found again his wonderful arabesque of feeling that can break your heart with the strength of its caress. What is missing is a nuance of lyric ferocity, a spin in the arabesque that would reinforce the beauty with the energy of anger."

Washington Post critic Gary Arnold called it a "luminous film "distinguished by the simplicity of feeling, the economy of expression and the generosity of spirit that have informed Ray's

(Contd. on page 10)

Some 20 To 40 Percent of Total Food-Grains Lost After Harvest

S me 20 to 40 per cent of the losses in total production of foodgrains and commodities in developing countries arises from inefficient post-harvest technology, including poor packaging, storage and transportation.

This finding is contained in a paper prepared for an intergovernmental meeting in Bangkok to consider and identify specific projects in agro-and allied industries for co-operation among developing countries of Asia and the Pacific.

The percentage could be substantially reduced by the adoption of suitable technology at the farm level, the paper adds.

The intergovernmental meeting was convened by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP).

Mr. Princy H. Sriwardene, the Deputy Executive Secretary of ESCAP, underscored the importance of post-harvest echnology.

He said that its importance was evident from the fact that postharvest losses of food grains amounted to a sizeable proportion of total production. These losses, he added, were in excess of the imports of food grains by developing member countries.

No Longer Paradise

Racist South Africa for decades attracted white, notably West European, immigrants dreaming of growing rich by exploiting African slave labour. That "golden age" seems to be over. Thousands of whites who have been issued South African papers, recently and long ago, are intent on leaving that country. The West German Consulate-General in Johannesburg says it is receiving up to 200 applications daily for permission to settle down in the Federal Republic of Germany and take out its citizenship papers. Most of these applications are turned down, a consulate official is reported to have said, "for otherwise we would have a regular problem of transmigration of peoples on our hands."

Useful Handbook

An advertisement in the "New York Times" recommends Ira Lipmuan's book "How to Protect Yourself from Crime." It gives answers to such questions as: How to behave if you or your relatives have been kidnapped, how to keep your home safe when you away, are how to keep your car safe, how to keep your house safe for children. One section is called "How to Survive on the streets" and explains why a person should carry enough money for a "fix" and why one should not fight back is held up. The author also recommends a whole arsenal of means of protection from criminals, including firearms.

From page 7

35 kg. of ammonium sulphate in bands at fruiting.

Among all the varieties of bitter gourd, Pusa-Do-Mausmi has become most popular as it gives abundance of fruit in just 50 to 55 days. As the name tells, the variety can be grown both as summer and rainy season crops. Arka Harit and Coimbatore Long are the other two improved varieties. In high rainfall areas, sowing on ridges should be preferred. About 5 kg of seed will suffice to sow a hectare, which can be sown in hills 30 to 45 cm. apart on both slopes of channels 45 cm wide, prepared at a distance of about 1.5 to 2 metres from each other. Two or three plants should be allowed to grow in each hill. In addition to the manures and fertiliser applied at land preparation, the plants should be top-dressed with 30 kg of ammonium sulphate at four to five leaf stage along with irrigation.

The crop needs to be staked during the rainy season. On an average, 100 quintals of fruits can be expected from a hectare. The sowing can continue up to July.

Arka Tinda should be preferred where fruit fly is a problem. Summer season tinda (round gourd) can be sown up to April on hills 30 to 48 cm. apart in about 45 cm wide furrows. The seed rate is 5 6 kg per hectare. The crop needs 75 kg of ammonium sulphate, applied in bands, and given in two instalments once when the vines growing and the rest at fruit-set. You can expect an yield of about 100 quintals per hectare.

Among the cucurbits, there is hardly any one to beat cucumber in popularity. Generally eaten raw, it is rich in vitamin C, calcium, phospherus and potassium. It prefers a well-drained soil rich in organic matter. It is tolerant to acid soils. The Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi, recommends Japanese Long Green for hills and Straight Eight among two exotic varieties Poona, Khira, Darjeelang Sikkim type are widely grown local varieties.

About 2.5 to 3.5 kg of seeds are required for a hectare. For a 30 metre long row, the seed needed is about 25 gm. The crop can be planted either on the hills or in furrows. In the hill method a slightly raised and 1.2 to 1.5 metre wide beds are made and on both sides of it, the seeds are sown in the hills. On each hill, four to six seeds are sown. Later on only 2 or 3 healthy plants are kept. The hills are about 60 cm apart. In furrow method, the seeds are sown on the edge of the furrow along its length on one side 30 to 45 cm apart, putting about 3 seeds at each point. Later on one or two plants are kept. Cucumber being a shallow rooted crop, the intercultivation should be deep in the beginning. But once the vine starts growing, it should be shallow and not too close to the plant.

(Material supplied by Dr. D.B. Guha, Horticulture Officer, Directorate of Extension, Ministry of Agriculture & Irrigation).

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tor of Government Examinations, said, "I pay my humble regards and respects to revered Sri Swami Kesavaiahji. I am happy that several ladies are also assembled here. The teachings of Sri Sai Baba are too simple to follow. I request the ladies and parents assembled here to pass on to their children, the spiritual knowledge. I also request every one to visit Sai Mandir atleast on Thursdays. Manikka Vasagar said that real beauty lies in our thoughts and therefore we should develop good thoughts. I thank the Samajam for celebrating Sri Rama Navami in a befitting manner and for giving me an opportunity to participate in the celebrations and to receive the blessings of Sri Sai Baba."

Honourable Justice Shri S. Natarajan, presiding over the celebrations, said, "I experience some spiritual aroma as soon as I step into the Mandir. Swamiji has laboured hard in constructing this beautiful and grand edifice. This is not the work of human being. It is God's grace and work. Sri Ramanavami is being celebrated throughout our Country. The underlying idea in celebrating this is we should slowly dedicate ourselves to His Service. There is a speciality in Rama Avatara as He descended on the earth as a man and suffered like us. He was a personification of dharma. He faithfully carried out the order of his parents with great pleasure and obeyed the commands immediately. He had renunciation in Him. If we follow the teachings of Ramayana, we will prosper". He paid glowing tributes to the unostentatious services of Swamiji and said that "Swamiji's life, is a life of love and service and prayed to the Almighty for Swamiji's sound health and long life.

The book entitled "Sri Shirdi Sai Baba Mandir" containing the growth and development of Sai cult under the able guidance of Swamiji as the Founder-President of Sri Sai Baba Bhakta Samajam, Shenoynagar, was released on this occasion. The book is priced Rs 2/- and is available for sale with the Samajam.

Shri T. Chengalvaraya Pillai proposed a vote of thanks. He thanked the distinguished chief guest and the speakers for kindly accepting the invitation of the Samajam. He also thanked the devotees that came in large numbers and made the function a grand success. He wished that in future also the devotees co-operate with the Samajam and help in propagating the ideals and teachings of Sri Sai Baba of Shirdi.

Swamiji distributed Udhi and Prasadam to all the devotees that came from all parts of the city and from mofussil places also.

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work from the beginning. These attributes are a key to Ray's greatness as a director."

"*Distant Thunder*," says Pauline Kael, in her review in *The New Yorker*, "is not one of his greatest films...Ray wants to show how war changes people, but he also wants to make it an indictment. And somehow he fails on both counts. Probably he fails on the first because he doesn't endow the villagers with enough complexity. And may be he did not think of them in complex enough terms because he had in mind that second, social purpose...in Ray's work, what remains inarticulate is what we remember what is articulated seems reduced, ordinary."

Comments as acute as this are not induced by exoticism or visions of massive poverty. The "wonderful arabesque" that the West sees is often made up of things we miss because we are too close to them.

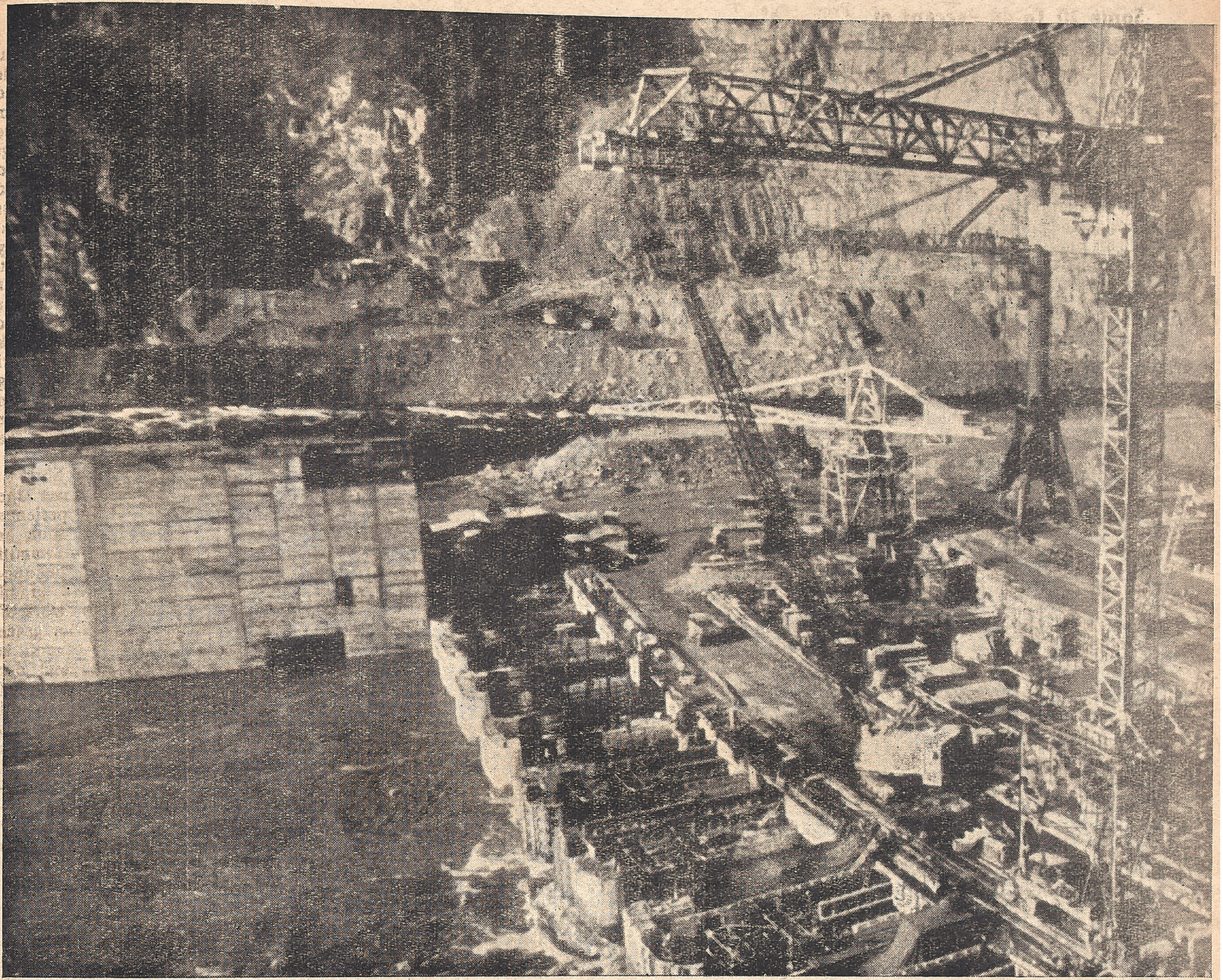
However, the quality of the Indian response is not always so much at variance with the West's. In the case of a film like *Charulata*, for instance: the Indian and the foreigner speak in the same language. What is striking is the fact that in most of his films Ray should be able to maintain a kind of equal distance from both. His films are so very intimately regional that they cannot be designed to appeal to the West: Yet in observing the regional reality, Ray is not caught in the trappings of surface naturalism.

"I don't chart revolutions," he maintains. "What I am interested in is ambiguity, the way nothing is quite what it seems. And people, of course. That is my metier."

His point of view is not nationalistic, but universal. His material happens to be Indian, but the statement he makes is about humanity. He sees the oneness of all human beings. He is neither proud nor ashamed of his people; he neither condemns them nor justifies them. He observes them and feels about them not as Indians but as people, caught in the meshes of specific time and space.

It is in this that Western countries feel an affinity with him that they often do not feel with their own best film directors, themselves limited by specific time and space, and too involved with their own culture to be able to see the oneness of all cultures.

Questioned about all this, Ray maintains an enigmatic silence, except to answer when the West wants to know why he will not go over there and make films for them, that he can make films only in a language and about a people he knows. There is so much still left to be done in Bengal, he says.



The construction of the world's most powerful hydro-power station, Sayano-Shushenskaya, is in full swing. When completed, it will supply cheap electricity to the Sayany industrial complex, one of the largest in the world.

The World's Most Powerful Hydro-Electric Project

The port of Igarka on the Yenisei in the Arctic Circle was famous in the '30s. Ships under all flags called at it. In the '60s, the focus of public attention shifted to the hydro-power station project of an unusual capacity which was being built near Krasnoyarsk in the middle reaches of the Yenisei. In the '70s it shifted still farther south, to the site where the Sayany complex is coming into being in the upper reaches of the Yenisei and where the Sayan-Shushenskaya Dam is going up.

The project, started during the Ninth Five-Year-Plan period, will get a powerful boost under the Tenth Five-Year-Plan but will be completed later.

The Sayany complex in Siberia, so to speak, is a gigantic testing ground where the Soviet people learn to look far ahead, to concentrate money and resources on the development of the most promising industries which can offer maximum and stable returns for a long time.

Within the orbit of the complex are new towns; there are also old towns built by the first pioneers and there will also be the new ones to be built in the near future. In all cases it is planned to have different kinds of buildings, to preserve intact the valuable Siberian monuments, to build new settlements in happy proximity to nature and sufficiently remote from industrial noises and odours. The landscapes within the complex area remind one of a health resort. Tall, straight pines rise next to the dunes of dazzling fine sands.

On the whole, the complex will represent, as economists say, a highly effective system of interdependent industrial centres, combines and associations. Undoubtedly, time will make certain alterations, but so far it is a question of some 120 major enterprises. The Khakassk-Minusinsk district, where the complex will be located, abounds in minerals. Iron, ores of nonferrous and rare metals, coal, chemical raw materials, building materials — all these are found in the area in its vicinity.

The Sayano-Shushenskaya power plant, with a capacity of 6.4 million kw and a power output of 23,500 million kwh a year, will generate the cheapest energy in the country: one kwh will cost 0.04 kopeck.

The builders of the Sayano-Shushenskaya Power Station are doing exciting and difficult work. Not so many arch-gravity dams have been erected in the Soviet Union so far, but for the first time some are being tested on the vast Sayano-Shushenskaya dam. The colossal mass of water which the dam will hold has a cutting force which is hard to imagine. The dam must be able to withstand a pressure of 18 million tonnes. "Although twice more concrete will be placed into it than was put into the Bratsk dam, not only its colossal weight but also the form of the dam will oppose the cutting force. A 240-m high concrete wall (twice as high as

(Condt. on page 12)

Film News In Pictures

K. R. Vijaya trying to console the crying "Thengai" Srinivasan. A scene from the Tamil film "Dharma Thai" meaning Mother of Justice.

New face Jayamalini striking a captivating dance pose In one of her forth coming Tamil films.

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the Krasnoyarsk dam) will be arched toward the storage reservoir, and its ends will rest against the hard rocks on the banks to transfer to them a considerable part of the load and to obtain additional support.

In general, it will be a "Cheops Pyramid" of the age of the scientific and technological revolution. Popular-science articles claim that the dam in the rocky canyon of the Yenisei will be the biggest hydro-engineering installation with the largest monolith of concrete in the world.

Life at the construction site is never at a stand-still. Electrical welders, powerful cranes and excavators work round the clock, in every weather, without stopping even for a moment.

Printed and Published for the Free India Private Ltd., by S. Rangarajan at the Free India Press, 77, General Patters Road, Mount Road, Madras-600002. Editor: D. Krishnamurthy.